

**From:** [Epp, Timothy](#)  
**To:** [Career Deputy Assistant Administrators](#); [Leadership Deputy Associate Administrators](#); [Leadership Assistant Administrators](#); [Leadership Regional Administrators](#); [Leadership Deputy Regional Administrators](#); [Leadership Associate Administrators](#); [Leadership Deputy Assistant Administrators](#); [Deputy Regional Counsels](#); [Regional Counsels](#); [Regional FOIA Officers](#); [FOIA Coordinators, Officers, and Alternates](#); [EPA FOIA Community](#)  
**Cc:** [Chaudhary, Dimple](#); [Hope, Brian](#); [Siciliano, CarolAnn](#); [Joffe, Brian](#); [OGC NFO](#); [Vendinello, Lynn](#); [Gross, Louann](#); [Wachter, Eric](#)  
**Subject:** July 2021 EPA FOIA Backlog Report  
**Date:** Wednesday, July 7, 2021 6:21:39 AM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

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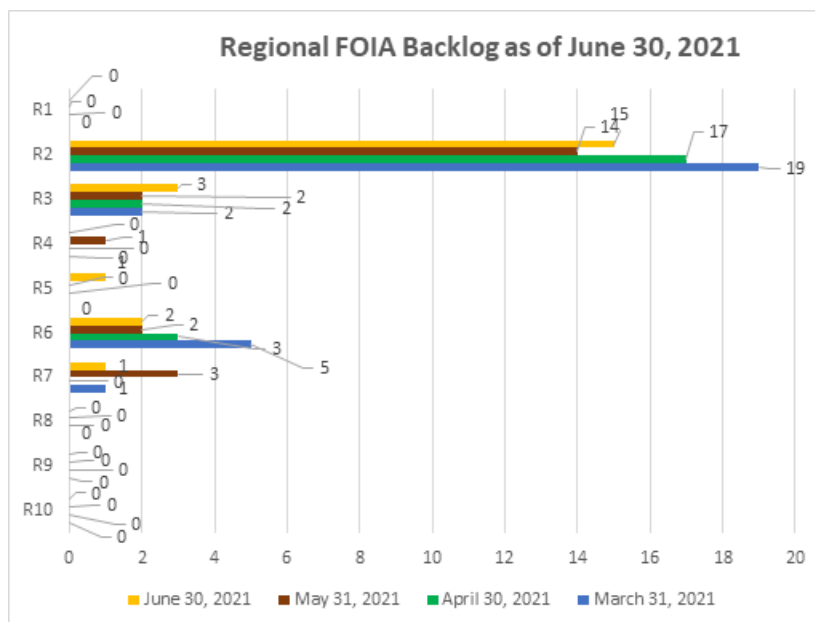
Colleagues,

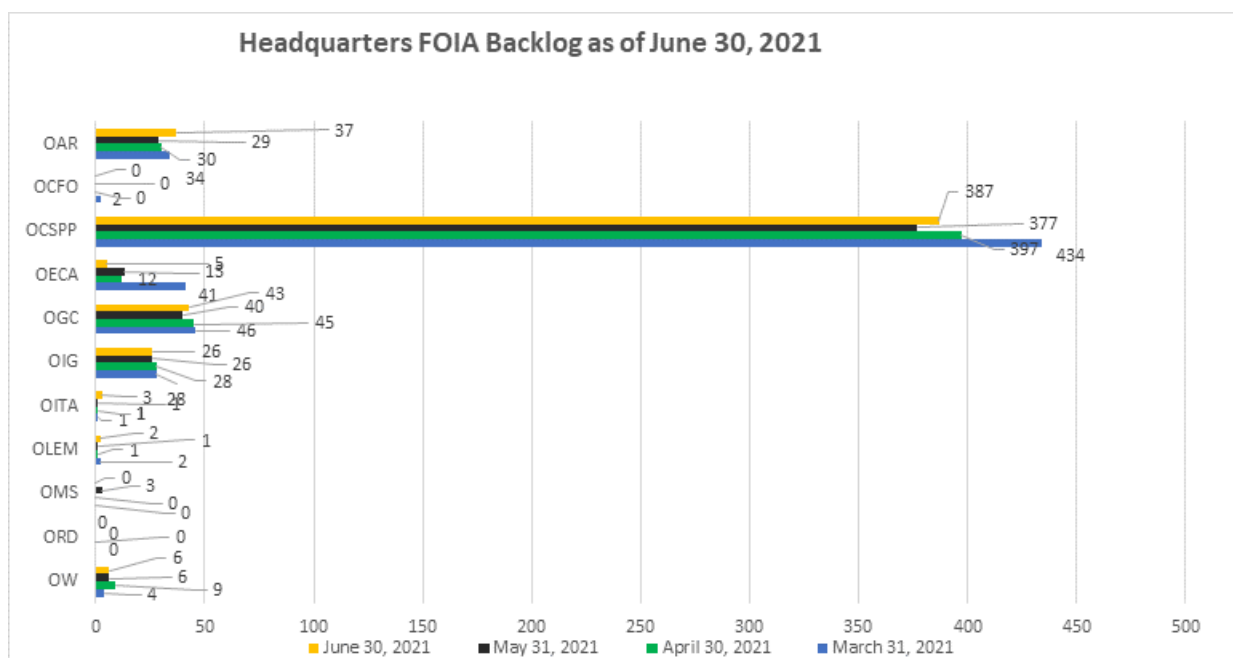
The Agency's backlog of overdue FOIA requests increased slightly in 2021. Overall, the Agency's backlog of overdue FOIA requests went up to 1,161 in June from 1,146 at the end of May. As a result, the Agency's backlog of overdue FOIA requests remains at approximately 17% reduction from the beginning of the fiscal year when the backlog of overdue FOIA requests was 1,395.

Although the two offices with the largest backlogs of overdue FOIA requests did not lower their backlogs this month, significantly most Agency offices now successfully maintain a very low backlog or no backlog month-over-month. Congratulations for a zero backlog to OCFO, OMS, ORD and Regions 1, 4, 8, 9, and 10, and congratulations to the following additional offices for keeping their backlog below five for the last several months: OITA, OLEM and Regions 3, 5, 6 and 7. Congratulations also to OECA for reducing its backlog from 41 in March to 5 at the end of June. Maintaining these low numbers is critical to the Agency's overall commitment to transparency and the specific objective to reduce the FOIA backlog by half by the end of the fiscal year.

#### **End of April Overdue FOIA Data**

The charts below show the number of overdue FOIA requests in EPA headquarters program offices and the regions at the end of the most recent four months: June, May, April, and March 2021. The Office of the Administrator's backlog increased to 631 in June from 628 at the end of May.





For this report, overdue FOIA request is defined as a FOIA request pending for more than 20 working days as of the end of the month or beyond an applicable due date extension that has been documented in FOIAonline (by agreement, proper notice of unusual circumstances, or notice of clock stoppage for clarification or fee assurances that is recorded as a due date extension). Please note that this definition of the backlog is different from the definition required for the Agency's annual report to the Department of Justice, which does not take into account unusual circumstances extensions beyond 10 days or other statutorily authorized due date extensions documented in the FOIAonline tracking system.

The March data in this report was generated from FOIAonline on April 1; the April data on May 1; the May data on June 2; and the June data on July 1 (the June data includes an adjustment for one office for due date extensions that were recorded in FOIAonline soon after the aggregate data was downloaded). If you would like to discuss the data, what additional data you would like to see reported, or to discuss ideas on how we can more rapidly reduce the Agency's FOIA backlog and more effectively meet the Agency's FOIA responsibility, please contact me at [epp.timothy@epa.gov](mailto:epp.timothy@epa.gov) or at (202) 564-2830.

Tim

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